

Village of Los Lunas



660 Main Street NW P.O. Box 1209
Los Lunas New Mexico 87031
Phone (505) 839-3840 FAX (505) 352-3580

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More and More Reasons to Shop Locally

With the holiday season here, we are all still scurrying around buying what we want and need.

This is the perfect time to remind everyone that there's little need to go to the "big city" to buy things for the season.

The village has grown in population and the number of stores that offer an ever increasing array of goods.

In 1970 the village had only 1,000 people. The 2000 Census

showed the village had just slightly more than 10,000 residents and that number continues to grow.

With the population growth has come commercial growth. In the last five years, many "big name" stores have opened in various areas of the village. In addition, several smaller shops have opened their doors or expanded.

So when you're shopping for the holidays, or when you're shopping the rest of the year, search

for what you need, want or desire locally first. With traffic increasing in the metropolitan area, you may well find it easier to locate the products or service in the Los Lunas area.

The closer it gets to December 25, the more hectic traffic becomes on the highways and byways of the bigger communities. And if you're shopping for lots of people, then you can return home whenever it's convenient to empty your trunk of the wonderful gifts.

**VISIT THE
VILLAGE WEBSITE**
www.loslunasnm.gov

**DRIVE CAREFULLY
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

School Zone & Christmas Decorations

On the left of this picture a New Mexico Department of Transportation employee in a cherry picker works on installing signage for the new school zone signs on Main Street. The zone goes from Don Diego to west of Luna Avenue. In the foreground a village employee hangs up Christmas decorations on a pole near the Village fire department on Main Street.



Long Range Transportation Planning for LL

Work is continuing on Long Range Transportation Planning in Valencia County.

The Mid Rio Grande Council of Governments (MRCOG) is working with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, the village, the City of Belen, the Village of Bosque Farms and Valencia County on the transportation plan.

Among the reasons for transportation planning:

- Growth. Valencia County grew 46 percent from 1990 to 2000 with a projected growth of 77 percent by 2005.

- Work trips. In 2000, 54 percent of workers commuted outside of the county while the average travel time has increased from 26.5 minutes in 1990 to 30.7 minutes in 2000.

MRCOG has worked on comprehensive plans for all the governmental agencies in Valencia County and is currently working on the Public Transportation Planning (also called United We Ride).

The purpose of the Long Range Transportation Plan will be to identify and evaluate transportation needs; and develop a plan for goals and needs.



Village Councilor Cecilia CC Castillo speaks at the ground breaking for the village's transportation center which may well be part of the new transportation plan.

The plan will look at past trends, current patterns and projected needs, multi-modal (which includes bikes, roads, rail and buses); inter-modal connections; financial constraints; and incorporate work from other planning efforts.

When fin-

ished, the plan will contain a financially constrained prioritized list of transportation actions and projects.

Steering and financial committees as well as public involvement will be used in developing the plan.

The plan is expected to be completed in Fall, 2005 assuming the participation of all local governments in Valencia County.

Did You Know?

Village Zoning Enforcement Officer Josie Navarette will be writing a column about different aspects of the village's zoning ordinance.

Want to know why there is an orange sticker on your car?

While on a routine patrol a police officer may observe a vehicle that appears to be abandoned. Some possible signs of abandonment are if the vehicle is on flat tires, garbage is stored inside the vehicle; the vehicle is stripped or has no license plate or current registration.

If the vehicle is on the street and is suspected of being abandoned a police officer will put an orange sticker on it stating that the owner of the vehicle has a few days from the date and time listed on the sticker to move it off the street. The officers note this on an abandoned vehicle report. In a few days, the officers will be back and check to see if the vehicle is still there; if the vehicle is still at the location, it will be impounded.

Stripping the sticker off your car will not prevent it from being towed. The Department does keep a record of vehicles that have been tagged.

My car isn't in the street, why is it still being tagged?

Another reason your car may be tagged is if it is illegally parked on private property with a "for sale" sign on it. Although you have received permission from the property owner to park your car on their property with a "for sale" sign on it, you and the property owner will be in violation. The only way a car can be parked with a "for sale" sign on private property is if the owner of the property has applied for a conditional use permit for a used car lot.

If there is a vehicle on the street that has been parked there for a long period of time and appears abandoned, call the police department at 865-9130. Call code enforcement at 839-3842 to report an abandoned/inoperable car on private property.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Louis F. Huning **Mayor**
Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego

Gerard Saiz Robert Vialpando

Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon

Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo Master Municipal Clerk

Chief of Police Nick Balido

Village Library Director Named

Cynthia Shetter, a ten-year veteran at the Los Lunas Public Library, has been named the director of that facility following the retirement of Carmen Jaramillo Campos, longtime village librarian.

Shetter began her village library career as a "Story Hour Mom," as she calls it, coming in to help with the children's story hour when Shetter's children were small.

When she was hired on at the library, her first task was to attend a conference about the Internet, then a new and challenging concept. Once she attended the conference, Shetter wrote a paper through Eastern New Mexico University about the Internet and then proceeded to help bring more computers as well as the Internet to the Los Lunas Library.

Shetter remembers that ten years ago the library had a server and two computers. Now she proudly talks about seven computers and a server for the employees plus 16 public-use computers including two in the young children's section and two in the youth section.

With her new-found computer knowledge years ago, Shetter helped expand the library's circulation and cataloguing system using state General Obligation bond money.

Shetter is a native of the Truth or Consequences area and has lived in the Los Lunas area for 20 years. She has some college education and her Grade I and II Library Certification.

Over the years Shetter has seen the library grow with an increased number of books and new sections added including audio books and videos.

In addition, the library recently underwent a 2,500 square foot expansion thanks to legislative appropria-



New Library Director Cynthia Shetter at her desk

tions and the village's local budget. This allowed the library to add a separate area for Southwest and reference items as well as creating more handicapped accessible rest rooms.

Currently underway is the landscaping of the "new" library. The \$96,000 project includes landscaping the village yards to the west of the library and installing a gate to the yard. The library landscaping will be primarily xeriscaping that will be watered automatically.

One of Shetter's projects is to turn the magazine room into a place where teens can gather to study and have a place to hang out rather than doing so in the streets.

In the future, Shetter sees library books having Radio Frequency I.D. chips imbedded in them which could mean easier checkout as well as making it easier to inventory a library.

In her new job Shetter is helped by Assistant Library Director Genevieve B. Martinez, public service technician Judi Riley-Bensley; circulation services technician Lorrie Maurer; and Technical Services Cataloguer Anna Pando. The village council hired two additional technicians in November.

The Los Lunas Library is located at 460 Main Street. Hours of operation are: Tuesday 10 am- 7 pm; Wednesday and Friday, 9 am - 5 pm; Thursday, 9 am-7 pm; Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm; and closed Sundays and Mondays. The phone number is 839-3850.



A landscaper at left works on the landscaping at the Los Lunas Library on a November afternoon.

Infrastructure Projects Proceeding

Infrastructure improvements continue.

Colonial Avenue, Cinder Lane, Mesa Cruzada, Cruzada Court, Wittwer Court, Tafoya Road, Coronado Street (east of Don Diego), Olympic Circle, and Gallahad Street will be improved thanks to state cooperative paving funds.

Work progresses on the Luna Hills project on the village's southwest side. This project includes storm drains on Canal Boulevard and sanitary sewer plus some storm drains on Drake, Breech and Coplen Roads.

Drainage improvements are being done in Carson Park by Main Street as well as at Pine and Pinon in Carson Park.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice a month in the village council chambers in the administrative building on the corner of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2004 are:

December 16 & 30

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are rescheduled so check with village officials at 839-3840 to be sure a meeting has not been changed.

The agenda will be available at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled meeting from the bulletin board located in the lobby of the Administration Office, located at 660 Main Street, Los Lunas, NM; the Los Lunas Library located at 460 Main Street in Los Lunas, NM; and posted on the village website (address: www.loslunasnm.gov).

2005 Events To Watch For

**SAINT PATRICK'S
BALLOON RALLY
Clean Up Events
FAMILY FUN FEST**



Annual Car Show

JULY 4 EXTRAVAGANZA

Haunted House

HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE

Visit with Santa

